

ART. XIX.—*A Treatise on the Practice of Medicine.* By GEORGE B. WOOD, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy in the University of Pennsylvania; one of the Physicians of the Pennsylvania Hospital; one of the authors of the Dispensatory of the United States of America, etc. etc. In two volumes, 8vo. Vol. i. pp. 798. Philadelphia: Grigg, Elliot & Co. 1847.

WE have been able to give to the treatise of Dr. Wood only a very superficial examination. So far as this has enabled us to judge of the general character of the work, we have formed a very favourable opinion of the manner in which the author has accomplished his task. We must postpone, however, our final judgment until the appearance of the second volume; when we shall have leisure to examine with care the entire work, of which we expect to be able to present in our next number a full review, the result of which we have no doubt will confirm the accuracy of the impression derived from our hasty perusal of the first volume. D. F. C.

ART. XX.—*Handbuch der Allgemeinen und Speciellen Chirurgie.* Von Dr. A. WERNHER, Professor der Chirurgie und Pathologischen Anatomie; Director des Chirurgischen Klinikums an der Universität zu Giessen. Ersten Bandes, erste Abtheilung. Giessen, 1846, 8vo.

*A Manual of General and Special Surgery.* By A. WERNHER, M. D., Professor of Surgery and Pathological Anatomy—Director of the Surgical Clinic in the University of Giessen, vol. i. part i.

WE have received only the first three numbers of Dr. Wernher's Manual, comprising 568 pages, which, however, do not complete the first volume. When the whole work shall be published it will form three large octavo volumes, of nearly seven hundred pages each. This is certainly a rather unwieldy size for a manual. We shall not, however, quarrel with the author on account of the title he has made choice of for his work; whether it be miscalled or not, it will be found, if we are permitted to judge of the whole from the specimen before us, a very excellent exposition of the present condition of surgery—presenting a full, accurate, and very able digest of the doctrines and practice established by the observations of the most authoritative surgeons of the past and present day. It will constitute, when completed, a valuable and efficient guide to the student, and a useful work of reference to the practitioner.

The portion of the work before us is devoted to a consideration of the subject of inflammation and its results.

In the first section the subject is examined generally. In the second section is presented a separate account of each of the results of inflammation and of its appropriate treatment. In the third section we have an account of ulceration and of the several forms of ulcer, while the fourth section treats of the inflammation in the individual tissues and organs.

All of the subjects embraced in these sections are treated with great ability. The author has confined himself almost entirely to a statement of facts, avoiding altogether those wild hypotheses and dubious explanations which detract so much from the value of many of the German treatises on subjects connected with medicine and surgery. Dr. Wernher exhibits an intimate acquaintance with the writings of those who, by their labours, have improved every department of surgery, and raised it from a mere mechanical art, whose highest aim was to save life by mutilating the body, to the rank of a liberal profession directed to save life while it diminishes the necessity of resorting to painful and dangerous operations. His descriptions of disease are accurately and skillfully drawn, and his plans of treatment simple and judicious.

Under the head of dyscrasic or specific inflammations—those which, according to Dr. W., are produced or kept up by a primary defect in the constitution of the nutritive fluid—are arranged 1st, *catarrhal* inflammation, or that affecting the mucous membrane and its glandular cysts; 2d, *rheumatic* inflammation, or that affecting the cellular tissue, especially that portion constituting the aponeuroses, the

sheaths of the muscles, tendons and nerves—the ligaments, the periosteum, and the serous and synovial capsules, as well as all organs in the composition of which the cellular tissue enters largely; 3d, *arthritic* inflammation, or that resulting from the blood being overloaded with worn-out highly azotized matter, and which, in consequence of the proper organs having become unable to remove it, is deposited in certain parts of the body; which depositions resemble crises; 4th, *scrofulous* inflammation, or that occurring in scrofulous subjects, and 5th, *putrid* and *typhus* inflammation, or that occurring where from any cause, as from the use of putrescent animal food, from miasmata and contagion, from a deficiency of nervous influence, or as a consequence of paralysis or exhaustion, or of excessive irritation of the nervous system, the blood has lost, in a great measure, its power of coagulation.

Although all this may be viewed as purely hypothetical, nevertheless the remarks of the author upon each of the forms of inflammation referred to are particularly judicious, and even if his pathological views shall be objected to, his descriptions, diagnosis, and therapeutical directions, must be acknowledged as correct by every practitioner.

The immediate results of inflammation—the effusion of serum and of plastic lymph, induration, pseudo-membranes, cicatrices, suppuration, abscesses, granulation, and gangrene, are treated of in detail and at great length—and the proper management of each carefully detailed.

Under the head of gangrene, we are presented with a very excellent account of necrosis, decubitus gangrænosus, gangrene of the mouth of children, dry gangrene, gangrene from the use of ergot, hospital gangrene, and the pustula gangrænosa—carbuncle or malignant pustule.

Dr. Wernher remarks, that “under the general name of *gangræna senilis*, gangrene of the aged, Potts’ gangrene, there have been described different forms of gangrene, which occur usually in the extremities, particularly in the lower ones, and have this in common that they terminate by the parts affected becoming dry, shrunk, and, as it were, mummified. They are all, no doubt, the result of an impediment occurring to the free circulation of the blood through the vessels of the part; this impediment may, however, differ in its character in different cases.

“The attention having been, heretofore, almost exclusively directed to the termination of this species of gangrene in a dry hardening of the parts affected by it, very different forms of disease have been included under one name which in their origin are essentially distinct, and in consequence demand a very different plan of treatment. The term *gangræna senilis*, gangrene of the aged, which has generally been applied to this species of gangrene, is particularly objectionable, as the gangrene is of proportionably frequent occurrence in young subjects, affecting even the new-born infant. It would be more correct to denominate it by the general name of dry or mummifying gangrene, *gangræna sicca*, distinguishing the different varieties according to their essential causes. The varieties are:—

“1. Mummifying gangrene in new-born children and infants—*gangræna infantilis*.

“2. Gangrene from mechanical closure of the arteries.

“3. Painless gangrene of the aged; Potts’ gangrene, podagric gangrene, *gangræna senilis vera*.

“4. Gangrene after acute arteritis, *gangræna spontanea* of the French writers.”

The pathology of ulceration, generally, and of the several forms of ulcer, with their appropriate management, is very fully considered; two hundred and thirty pages being devoted to this subject. The forms of ulceration described by Dr. Wernher are—1, varicose ulcers; 2, scrofulous ulcers; 3, lupus; 4, scorbutic ulcers; 5, arthritic ulcers; 6, impetiginous ulcers; 7, syphilitic ulcers; 8, mercurial ulcers; 9, ulcers of the bones—*caries*.

The special inflammations comprised in that portion of the work that has reached us are, inflammation of the arteries—inflammation of the veins generally, and of the veins of the bones, and of the uterus—inflammation of the lymphatics, and of the lymphatic glands, acute and chronic.

The account of these inflammations is full and accurate; the views entertained in relation to the pathology of each, by the leading authorities of modern times, are presented with great clearness, and the general deductions of the author from

the observations upon which these opinions are based are particularly judicious; while his plans of treatment are, throughout, those which have received the sanction of the most experienced surgeons. To each of the leading sections and subsections is prefixed a very copious reference to the works of the principal authorities in relation to the particular subject under consideration.

Although we have found nothing in the work of Dr. Wernher of a very novel character, and but little that can be termed strictly original, we can recommend it, nevertheless, as presenting—in relation to the several subjects embraced in the three numbers that lay before us—an able digest of the present state of surgical pathology and therapeutics.

D. F. C.

ART. XXI.—*Chirurgischer Almanach für die Jahre 1844 und 1845.* Von FR. ERNST BAUMGARTEN, Dr. Med. and Chir., Königl. Hannov. Bergchirurgus zu Clausthal, Oberdirector des General Vereins Norddeutscher Chirurgen, Director des Harzes Vereins, etc. Siebenter und Achter Jahrgang. Osterode und Goslar, 1845. 12mo. pp. 444.

A *Surgical Almanac for the years 1844 and 1845.* By F. E. BAUMGARTEN, Doctor of Medicine and Surgery, Royal Surgeon for Clausthal, Superior Director of the General Union of the Surgeons of North Germany and Director of the Harz Union, &c.

THE plan of this almanac is a very excellent one, and although embraced in a great measure in all our leading medical journals, we are nevertheless persuaded that a well conducted work of a character similar to that of Dr. Baumgarten, would, even in this country, be an admirable medium of communicating, at a small expense, to physicians in remote and secluded situations, much valuable information in relation to the publications devoted to the different departments of their profession and the principal improvements that have been recently made in each.

The almanac commences with a bibliographical notice of the several works upon surgical subjects published during the years 1842, 1843, and 1844. These notices are confined exclusively to works published in Germany, while they are throughout very brief and unsatisfactory. A more extended account of the contents of each work, with a sketch of the peculiar views advocated by its author, would render this portion of the almanac peculiarly interesting and valuable. Its interest and value would also be increased were it to embrace a notice of the leading works published in every portion of the world.

The bibliographical notices are followed by a concise system of surgery, made up of quotations from the works of the leading authors of the day. This is very good so far as it goes, but much too concise to convey any very valuable information. To this part of the work, which corresponds in some degree with our quarterly summary, there succeed 1st, official orders and notices; 2d, announcements of prize questions; 3d, miscellaneous matter interesting to the surgical profession; 4th, an account of various marks of honour and esteem bestowed upon surgeons; 5th, surgical appointments; 6th, residences of the surgeons of the first and second classes of the kingdom of Prussia; 7th, surgical appointments with the residences and deaths of surgeons in Hanover and Brunswick; 8th, deaths of surgeons in Prussia, and 9th, deaths of surgeons in other countries.

To the whole is added a list of the several works from which quotations have been made. Among these we find included, only two American publications, the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, and the *New York Medical and Surgical Journal*. The almanac concludes with two copious indices, first, of the authors referred to, and second, of the subjects noticed in the present volume.

D. F. C.